

As chair of the NPR Board of Directors, I respectfully request that the Commission authorize the use of HD radio as a technology offering supplemental audio channels. With the consolidation of ownership of radio stations we have seen even less diversity of voices in radio services. Public Radio has been the one exception. However, there is only so much that public radio can achieve within the limits of one channel. HD radio offers the possibility that listeners across the country may have access to a greater variety of radio services. There are so many possibilities - so many needs. few communities currently have access to classical music, or jazz or blues or any number of other music genres. And in this day and age, when good information is so important, NPR stations are often the only source of news on radio. Yet, the limits of a single channel have prevented many stations from being able to provide a complete news and information service. And then there is the need to serve growing minority populations. Multiplexing on HD radio could change all of this. Simply put, it will mean more services for more Americans. The Board of NPR strongly urges the Commission to act affirmatively authorizing supplemental audio on HD radio.

Sincerely,

Mark Handley
Chair, NPR Board